

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus operable to convert digital content metadata comprising:

a mapping module for converting the received external digital content metadata into the digital content metadata peculiar to the network; and

a search module for locating a method of accessing a program in a predetermined manner using the unique identifier assigned to each program in the received external digital content metadata.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital content metadata received external to the network is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) Content Directory service (CDS) metadata.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the search module locates the program accessing method by use of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

4. A network apparatus operable to convert digital content metadata comprising:

a metadata receiving unit for receiving digital content metadata external to the network;

a converter for converting the received external digital content

metadata into the digital content metadata peculiar to the network by causing the external digital content metadata received in the metadata receiving unit to be mapped into the peculiar digital content metadata in a predetermined manner and by locating a method of accessing a program using a unique identifier assigned to each program in the external digital content metadata; and

a storage unit for storing the converted digital content metadata therein to allow devices in the network to use the converted digital content metadata.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a metadata filtering unit for deleting a part or all of the converted digital content metadata stored in the storage unit according to a predetermined condition.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a processing module for analyzing and using metadata which has not been mapped into properties supported by classes of digital content metadata peculiar to an existing network among external digital content metadata mapped into the digital content metadata peculiar to the network.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the converter uses a URL as the method of accessing the program.

11. A network system, comprising:

a first network apparatus comprising

a metadata receiving unit for receiving digital content metadata external to the network;

a converter for converting the received external digital content metadata into digital content metadata peculiar to the network by causing the external digital content metadata received in the metadata receiving unit to be mapped into the peculiar digital content metadata in a predetermined manner and by locating a method of accessing a program using a unique identifier assigned to each program in the external digital content metadata; and

a storage unit for storing the converted digital content metadata therein to allow devices in the network to use the converted digital content metadata; and

a second network apparatus comprising a processing module for analyzing and using metadata which has not been mapped into properties supported by classes of digital content metadata peculiar to an existing network among the external digital content metadata mapped into the digital content metadata peculiar to the network.

12. The network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

13. The network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the converter of the first network apparatus uses a URL as the method of accessing the program.

14. A method for converting digital content metadata, comprising:
receiving digital content metadata external to a network;
causing the received external digital content metadata to be mapped into digital content metadata peculiar to the network according to a predetermined rule; and

locating a method of accessing a relevant content using a content

reference ID (CRID) in the received external digital content metadata.

15. A method for converting digital content metadata, comprising:
receiving digital content metadata external to a network;
causing the received external digital content metadata to be mapped into digital content metadata peculiar to the network according to a predetermined rule;
locating a method of accessing a relevant content using a content reference ID (CRID) in the received external digital content metadata; and
storing the external digital content metadata converted into the digital content metadata peculiar to the network on the basis of mapping information and the method of accessing the content.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising setting a deletion condition for a part or all of the converted digital content metadata, and locating and deleting metadata satisfying the deletion condition from the converted external digital content metadata.

17. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

18. The method as claimed in any of claim 15, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

19. The method as claimed in any of claim 16, wherein the received external digital content metadata is TV-Anytime metadata and the digital content metadata peculiar to the network is UPnP CDS metadata.

20. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the method of accessing the content uses a URL.